

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

ACADEMIC AND CREATIVE WRITING

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the concept of appropriate academic and creative writing in a higher education setting and equip them with the skills to apply it effectively within their specific subject areas. Students will acquire the foundational principles of academic reading and writing strategies along with strategic research methodologies and ethical research approaches. The communication and presentation of research will also play an important thematic role to assist students in developing confidence regarding the production and sharing of their own written research. Although the abovementioned focus resides in the academic world, the graduate (life-) skills of academic and creative writing form a golden thread throughout the module. Through individual and group exercises, students will therefore have the opportunity to cultivate their own critical voice for their own specific context.

ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE

This module provides students with integrated knowledge of the concepts, terminology, and principles of Administrative Justice. Students are familiarised with legal principles related to the nature, development, and sources of administrative law, separation of powers, transformative constitutionalism, the legal subjects in administrative law and the administrative relationship, the concept "administrative action", and categories of administrative actions. The module is also concerned with the enforcement of administrative actions, administrative authorities, the duties of administrators, and the requirements as to the procedure and fairness of administrative actions. It equips students with knowledge of the sources of Administrative Justice to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations.

AFRICAN CUSTOMARY LAW

This module aims at instilling an awareness of the principles of African Customary Law that will enable reasoning and the identification and application of the principles that will guide decision-making and action in the African context. In the module, students are familiarised with basic concepts, terminology, and principles of African Customary Law. Students are familiarised with the rules and principles of African Customary Law relating to private law and criminal law, the role of traditional leadership and traditional courts, and the ascertainment and proof of Customary Law.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

This module provides students with integrated knowledge of the concepts, terminology, and principles of Constitutional Law. The module is also concerned with the sources of Constitutional Law, the nature of the State, separation of powers and the branches of government. It equips students with knowledge of the sources of Constitutional Law to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations.

END-USER COMPUTING

End-User Computing includes an online training component which allows students to practice simulated MS Office tasks at their own pace, supported by integrated feedback which helps them to identify and remedy their mistakes; and an assessment component which will count towards their overall module result. Students will also complete several assignments in which they will be expected to apply the MS Office tools that they have practiced in the online environment. The module is aimed at learning and practicing skills required by law students and prospective practitioners.

FAMILY LAW

This module provides students with insight into the basic concepts, terminology, and principles of Family Law. Students are familiarised with legal principles related to engagements, civil marriages, consequences of marriage, the dissolution of marriages, and the principles related to life partnerships. The module also provides students with knowledge on maintenance of a spouse or child upon divorce and the best interests of the child in divorce proceedings. Students are introduced to the sources of Family Law to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations. The module also introduces students to the influence and impact of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, on Family Law.

HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

This module aims at instilling an awareness of the principles of Human Rights Law that will enable reasoning and the identification and application of the principles that will guide decision-making and action in the South African context. In this module students are familiarised with rights contained in the Bill of Rights (Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996), constitutional values and the interpretation and application of the Bill of Rights. Students are also briefly be familiarised with human rights at a global and regional level.

INNOVATION

Increased global competition, technological progress, rapidly changing market conditions, and consumer demands make innovation and differentiation essential for every organisation. The purpose of this module is to introduce students to innovation as an important source of competitive advantage and economic growth. Students will explore what innovation is, how it comes about, how it is managed in an organisation, how an innovation culture is established, and how it contributes to a nation's progress.

INTRODUCTION TO LAW

In this foundational module, first-time law students are introduced to the law as it stands, in accessible terms, with reference to the different sources of law and the classification of the law. In this module, it is demonstrated to students how the law affects the everyday lives of individuals and groups in South Africa. The module exposes students to the complexities of law, the contestability of the law and uncertainties that may exist in the law. Students are further exposed to human rights, legal comparison, aspects of legal language, legal comparison, and critical voices on existing law in order for them to form informed opinions about the law and legal systems. The module also exposes students to the courts, legal profession, and the implications of the transformative Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

LAW OF CONTRACT

This module provides students with knowledge of the basic concepts, terminology, and principles of Law of Contract. Students are familiarised with legal principles related to the drafting of contracts, requirements of a valid contract, breach of contract, and interpretation of contracts. The module also provides students with knowledge on the impact of the Consumer Protection Act 68 of 2008 on contracts. Students are introduced to the sources of Law of Contract in order to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations. The module also introduces students to the influence and impact of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, on the Law of Contract.

LAW OF DELICT

This module provides students with integrated knowledge of the concepts, terminology, and principles of the Law of Delict. The module is concerned with the elements of a delict, grounds for justification, liability and the apportionment of damages. It equips students with knowledge of the sources of Law of Delict to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations.

LAW OF PERSONS

In this foundational module, first-time law students are equipped with basic legal skills they will need in their studies and in practice. The module exposes students to study skills needed to complete a qualification in law. The module also covers basic numeracy skills, research skills, reading skills, writing skills, interviewing skills, and advocacy skills. It is aimed at learning and practicing skills required by law students and prospective practitioners.

LAW OF PROPERTY

This module provides students with integrated knowledge of the concepts, terminology, and principles of Property Law. The module is concerned with the legal principles of ownership, holdership, and possession. It equips students with knowledge of the sources of Property Law to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations.

LAW OF SUCCESSION

This module equips students with knowledge of the basic concepts, terminology, and principles of Law of Succession. The module therefore aims to provide students with knowledge of the law and rules which control the transfer of assets of a deceased person to successors. Students are familiarised with legal principles related to intestate and testate succession, formalities of a will, revocation of a will, contents of a will, capacity to inherit, collation, and the administration of estates. Students are introduced to the sources of the Law of Succession to enable them to extract principles from these sources and apply them to factual situations. The module also introduces students to the influence and impact of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, on the Law of Succession.

LEGAL SKILLS

In this foundational module first-time law students are equipped with basic legal skills they will need in their studies and in practice. This module exposes students to study skills needed to complete a qualification in law. The module equips students with basic numeracy skills, research skills, readings skills, writing skills, interviewing skills and advocacy skills.

PHILOSOPHY I (INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY)

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the field of philosophy by giving them an overview of some of the main fields of study (or 'Big Questions') in philosophy. The module covers philosophical thinking, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, logic and critical thinking, and the question of what it means to be human. A secondary aim of the module is to start students on the path of questioning and critical thinking. The themes handled in the module will lay the foundations for future modules. Students will acquire the necessary knowledge and analytical skills needed to continue their studies in philosophy. These skills in analysis, argumentation, and problem solving can also be implemented in other fields of study. Each theme also includes a practical exercise or thought experiment, which will enable students to apply their knowledge and hone their analytical and critical thinking abilities.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT I (INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS)

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the study of politics. It is based on three essential components that are identified as the introductory foundation in understanding politics. This will include defining the nature of the state in politics, the conceptualisation of how power can and should be used, and examining the way power can be utilised to achieve particular ends. Secondly, the module will assess institutions through the manner in which political actions are conducted, such as the separation of powers between the three spheres of government. The primary focus will be on democratic institutions as described within formal constitutional rules, but also in the context of institutions in states where democracy is not formally constituted. Lastly, political processes and the role of political actors will be assessed in gauging the factors that influence state society relations, democratic consolidation, and the dynamics of electoral politics, constitutional values and rules. The African and the South African political landscape will serve as the contextual analytical framework.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIA (COMPARATIVE POLITICS)

In this module, students will be introduced to the sub-field of comparative politics which comprises an application of the comparative methodology in the study of government politics. Students will be presented with insights comparing how societies and politics have addressed challenges in similar and divergent ways, and some of the approaches developed in understanding systems of government. The criteria for selection of cases vary according to the question that is being researched, whether it is political stability, democratic quality, democratic transition and consolidation, or socio-economic development. Africa and South Africa will be examined in this comparative context, extrapolating how African systems of government are informed by pathways to development, models of democratic frameworks, and dynamics of historical and contemporary structural conditions that influence the nature and institutional architecture of the state, society and culture.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIB (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND AFRICAN POLITICS)

The international system constitutes a critical backdrop for the relationship between states and non-states as actors embedded in a wide-set engagement with international organisations such as the United Nations, the African Union (AU), regional economic communities including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), or the European Union (EU). Therefore the aim of this module is to introduce students to what constitutes the politics among nations as well as understanding the core elements that inform how such relations are conceptualised in practice and the theoretical debates such as ideology, diplomacy, international law, political economy, globalisation, and power that are used in the study of International Relations. Africa and South Africa will serve as the framework to gauge the interpretation, position and integration in global affairs.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIIA (POLITICAL ANALYSIS)

The systematic study of politics gains its distinctiveness as a field of study by virtue of its being an academic discipline. The rigour embedded in this disciplinary approach is found in the application of a particular method of research. Each method is in turn based on a particular set of epistemic truth claims, which require one particular methodology over another, and one set of truth claims over others. Contending theoretical paradigms also align themselves with corresponding supportive epistemologies and methodologies. The aim of this module is to present to students the range of methods of political research, each with their respective epistemological truth claims. Students will be required to identify a research topic based on a selection of issues discussed in years 1 and 2. Students will have to consider a topic from the range of modules completed on political behaviour, global political economy, comparative politics, international relations and African politics, introduction to political and South African politics. Students are required to apply the research methodology in developing their research on the topic with a view to developing a research finding and producing a research report.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIIB (POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR)

This subfield entails the study of political values, beliefs, and attitudes that people endorse, and that find coherent expression in democratic political culture. The dynamics of political behaviour concern the way that people transfer dispositions from one generation to the next. If they succeed, the result is continuity in political culture and stable conventional democratic political participation. To the extent that this transfer is incomplete or fails, discontinuity in political culture arises, with resultant protest politics, instability, and even violence. These issues will be tested in the African and South African context based on what issues inform political behaviour, beliefs, change, and the dynamics of contested electoral politics in how democracy is conceptualised and interpreted in practice.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IIIC

This module introduces students to the study of global political economy. It explores the dynamics that inform the economic relations of cooperation and conflict between major state and non-state political actors in international economic architecture. Using the 19th and 20th centuries as the backdrop of a global system of interaction, the major subject matter of this subfield that will be assessed will include the spheres of production, trade, finance, and the rules governing the international economic order. Understanding the evolution of this system and its primary characteristics requires a conceptual and theoretical framework of understanding such as mercantilism, market liberalism, economic dependency (core-periphery structuralism), and the evolution of globalisation. Considering some of the major contending theoretical frameworks which inform the practical contours of the global political economy will be significant in interpreting and understanding South Africa and Africa's relationship to the power dynamics that define international political economy and the processes of structural transformation and regional economic integration. It will also assess the rise of actors such as China and India and their corresponding effects on the global economic architecture and the implications this has for Africa and South Africa.

UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING CREATIVITY

Creativity is defined as the production of novel, useful and surprising ideas. Creative ideation provides individuals with the capacity to deal with and adapt to opportunities, threats, and changes in everyday life. It is not just a reaction to problems and challenges, but considered a driver of cultural evolution through the development of new ideas and subsequent innovation. Within industry, creativity as a driver of innovation is considered an important economic resource and viewed as an integral factor contributing to the overall success of an organisation. Yet, despite the importance of creativity for driving innovation and evolution within increasingly unstable and turbulent economic and social environments, the understanding and management of creativity remains too often a poorly understood area. This module is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop a critical awareness of current theories concerning the role of creativity in the economy and society, as well as approaches to the management of creativity at individual, group, and organisational level.